

URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the YEAR 1948.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1984. Population - Census, 1931 - 6660.

Registrar-General's estimate
of Population, mid-1948 5,957.

Number of inhabited houses -- (a) Census, 1931 - 1458.
(b) End of 1948 according to rate books 1708.

Rateable Value ... £23,209. Sum represented by a penny rate - £88.

Social Conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area.

Abram is essentially a colliery district and the houses are of the working class type. Agricultural and dairy farming is carried on in the district.

Most of the inhabitants are employed in the mines but a fair percentage find work in surrounding townships in cotton mills.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	120	51	69
Illegitimate	6	4	2
Total	126	55	71

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1948 - 21.1

<u>Stillbirths:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	4	2	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 30.

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
59	36	23

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population - 9.9.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	- Nil.
Other maternal causes	- 1.
Total maternal mortality	- 1.

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births from puerperal and post abortive sepsis - Nil.

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births from maternal causes - 7.69.

Total maternal death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 7.69.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	15
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	2	Nil
Legitimate	2	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

Per 1,000 of estimated population.

	<u>Live birth rate</u>	<u>Crude death rate</u>	<u>Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System</u>	<u>Death rate from Cancer</u>
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	19.9	12.6	0.24	1.45
Year 1947	21.9	12.9	0.16	0.48
Year 1948	21.1	9.9	Nil	1.67

Increase or decrease in
1948 on:-

5 years' average, 1943-1947	+ 1.2	-2.7	-0.24	+0.22
Previous year	- 0.8	-3.0	-0.16	+0.83

Maternal Mortality Rate

	<u>Per 1,000 live births</u>	<u>Per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>	<u>Death rate under 1 year per 1,000 live births</u>
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	Nil	Nil	53
Year 1947	Nil	Nil	69
Year 1948	7.93	7.69	15

Increase or decrease in
1948 on:-

5 years' average, 1943-1947	+ 7.93	+7.69	- 38
Previous year	+ 7.93	+7.69	- 54

CAUSES OF DEATHS:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Acute Encephalitis	-	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2
Cancer of Breast	-	2
Cancer of all other sites	1	3
Intracranial Vascular lesions	3	1
Heart Diseases	14	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	4	1
Nephritis	1	1
Maternal Causes	-	1
Premature Birth	1	-
Congenital injuries, diseases, etc.	1	-
Suicide	1	-
Road Traffic Accident	1	-
Other Violent Causes	-	1
All other causes	5	1
	<u>36</u>	<u>23</u>

/contd.

A death rate of 9.9 and an infantile mortality rate of 15 are remarkably low figures for Abram.

Unusual or Excessive Mortality. - There has been an increase in the deaths from cancer during 1948, the females having suffered more than the males.

Sickness and Invalidity. - There was an epidemic of Measles during the last quarter of the year, 127 cases having been notified. Sixty nine of the cases were in children between four and ten years of age. Respiratory complications were few. Colliery accidents remained about the normal figure.

Public Health Officers of the Authority. - Mr. H. Allen who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute is the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. He is whole-time employed.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time servant.

Laboratory Facilities. - Pathological specimens are sent to Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Public Health Laboratories for examination.

Ambulance Facilities. - The ambulance service for Abram has worked very smoothly, being efficient and sufficient. It is a joint service - Abram, Hindley and Ince participating.

Infectious cases have been removed in the ambulance belonging to Astley Sanatorium.

The collieries have their own arrangements for removing accident cases.

Nursing in the Home. - The Abram Nursing Association employed a full time nurse until reorganisation of authorities took place. The County Health Visitor attends sick children at their homes and gives nursing advice to the parents.

Child Welfare and Ante Natal Care. - The Lancashire County Council have a welfare centre near the Abram Council Offices. There are sessions every Wednesday. On Saturday mornings the nurse attends in order to distribute milk.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases. - Abram is a member of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board which has a Hospital at Astley. The accommodation is ample having 18 beds for smallpox cases and 112 for other infectious cases.

Infectious Diseases Generally. - The number of infectious diseases notified during 1948 was 166. Measles accounted for 127 of those. Otherwise, there was no marked change in infectious diseases during the year compared with the last few years.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Supplies. - Supplies were kept at the residence of the M.O.H. for the district. The anti-toxin is supplied to the petitioner free of charge. Other sera are supplied free of charge after consideration by the local authority.

Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens Examined. - Two samples of water from a gulley and a well and a sample of earth from a drain excavation were submitted for examination for the presence of salmonella typhi and the report stated "not isolated".

Diphtheria Immunisation. - No. of persons who received artificial immunisation during the year:-

Pre-school children	65
School children	6
Reinforcement doses	12

Prophylactics recommended:

A.P.T. - 2 injections for primary treatment.
T.A.F. - 1 injection for reinforcement doses.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages.	Under											65 and over
		1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	
Scarlet fever	10			1	1	1	5	2					
Measles (excluding rubella)	127	9	16	15	16	20	49	1	1				
Whooping cough	25	8	2	2	2	6	5						
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	3			1			1				1		
Erysipelas	1											1	
Totals	166	17	18	19	19	27	60	3	1		1	1	

Total cases removed to hospital: Scarlet fever - 5.
Total deaths - Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases during 1948.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
20 years			1	
25 "			1	
35 "		1		
45 "		1		
65 and upwards	2			
Totals	2	2	2	-
	4		2	

There were no deaths due to tuberculosis.

All the cases have been previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis.

Housing. - New houses. - During 1948 the Council have erected 70 prefabricated permanent and 46 traditional permanent houses which have been let and 22 others are in various stages of construction.

The erection of 40 flats with two bedrooms and 16 houses with three bedrooms is awaiting approval.

Over 400 applications for Council houses have been received.

/contd.

Housing Conditions. - Most of the houses are of the two bedroom type built in rows. Damage by subsidence is evident in the greater part of the district. There is a slight increase in overcrowding. The non-availability of land safe from damage by mining subsidence restricts the housing programme.

Overcrowding. - The shortage of new houses causes married sons and daughters to remain with their parents after marriage and thus aggravates the overcrowding position.

No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	-	33
No. of families dwelling therein	-	49
No. of persons " "	-	167
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-	6
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-	6
No. of persons concerned in such cases	-	19

Water Supply. - The supply to all parts of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is a piped supply to every house in the township.

The following examinations of the water were made:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Result</u>
Bacteriological examination	1	Satisfactory
Chemical Analysis	1	Satisfactory

Sanitary Inspections during 1948. -

No. of premises visited - 461.

Defects or nuisances. -

No. discovered	-	377
No. abated	-	321
No. of notices served:		
Informal	201	
Statutory	<u>12</u>	- 213

Legal Proceedings. - No. 6. Result - Court orders and costs.

Disinfestation. - Two houses have been treated for the eradication of bed bugs and no cases of reinfestation have been encountered.

The Council's rodent operator has dealt with all cases of rodent infestation and systematically surveyed the whole of the district.

Canal Boats. - No. inspected - 12. No. of infringements - 3.

<u>Milk Supply.</u>	No. of dairy farms	-	16
	No. of cows (approximate)	-	172
	No. of milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)	-	1
	No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurized" milk (Retail distribution)	-	2

Examinations of milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli:-

No. of samples submitted	-	16
Results: Positive	Nil	
Negative	<u>16</u>	- 16

Meat Inspection. - Carcases inspected and condemned:-

Number killed (if known) ...	...	...	17
Number inspected ...	...	...	14
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>			
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	....	Nil
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	...	...	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	...	...	14
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>			
Whole carcase condemned ...	...	...	1
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	...	...	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	...	...	7

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. -

No. of Factories on register	9
No. of inspections	16
No. of defects discovered	1
No. of defects remedied	1
No. of outworkers	Nil

Signed,

I. R. Britton

Medical Officer of Health.

20th August, 1949.